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Daily Report

Sub-Saharan Africa

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Sub-Saharan Africa

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NOTICE TO READERS: Effective 1 October, the processing indicators appearing in brackets at the start of each item in this publication will be changed. All new indicators will begin with "FBIS" to make the material more easily identifiable. Some will also indicate whether the item has been translated from the vernacular or transcribed from English.

An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

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Burundi

Gunmen Attack Cars in Mageyo

EA2410191494 Bujumbura Radio-Television Nationale
du Burundi Radio in Kirundi 1700 GMT 24 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpts] The country's security is being jeopardized, as we keep on saying. Carrying arms has become normal and this means that it will not be easy to disarm people. [passage omitted] Throughout the day on the Bujumbura-Bugarama road in Mageyo there has been a problem of armed people stopping cars looking for Tutsi travelers. A car fell in the trap. Some people died and others were injured. All were evacuated to King Khalid hospital in Bujumbura. Policemen who gave us this information promised to give us more details after their investigations. [passage omitted]

Rwandan Ministers Arrive for Talks on Refugees

EA2410195094 Bujumbura Radio-Television Nationale
du Burundi Radio in Kirundi 1700 GMT 24 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] A Rwandan delegation led by Interior Minister Seth Sendashonga arrived here yesterday at the start of a three-day visit to deal with the question of Rwandans who took refuge in northern Burundi. The minister is accompanied by the minister of rehabilitation and social reintegration, Dr. Jacques Bihozagara; the minister of agriculture and livestock, Dr. Augustin Lyamuremye; and the minister of works and social affairs, Pie Mugabo.

The ministers are due to visit Rwandan refugee camps situated in Ngozi, Kirundo, and Musinga. Two of the four ministers come from Butare Prefecture and will try to persuade some of the Rwandan refugees to return home.

The UNHCR says there are about 270,000 Rwandan refugees in Burundi. Some have been leaving Burundi for Tanzania, from where they believe they will return to Rwanda, but only a few of them actually return.

The Rwandan delegation will meet Burundian officials such as the head of state, Sylvestre Ntibantunganya, Prime Minister Anatole Kanyenkiko, and a number of ministers.

Zaire

Former Rwandan Premier Spurns Plans for 'Buffer Zone'

AB2410171494 Paris AFP in English 1653 GMT 24 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Bukavu, Zaire, Oct 24 (AFP)—Former Rwandan prime minister Jean Kambamba Monday [24 October] spurned plans to establish a "buffer zone" inside Rwanda where the estimated 2.3

million Hutu refugees currently living in camps in Zaire, Tanzania and Burundi could transit before returning home.

"We are already living in a buffer zone," Kambamba told AFP in an interview in this eastern border town at the foot of Lake Kivu. "A buffer zone in Rwanda will be used to kill us. As long as atrocities are still being committed by the RPF, we will not go," he said, referring to the Tutsi-led Rwandan Patriotic Front.

As effective leader of the "Rwandan government-in-exile" and a powerful Hutu hardliner, Kambamba's response is a damaging blow to the plan, drafted jointly by newly-appointed Rwandan Prime Minister Faustin Twagiramungu and Zairean Prime Minister Kengo wa Dondo.

Angolan Defense Minister Ends Visit

AB2410205194 Kinshasa Voix du Zaire in French 1230
GMT 23 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Angolan Defense Minister General Pedro Maria Tonha "Pedale" has ended his visit to Zaire and left Kinshasa today for Luanda, the Angolan capital. Earlier, Admiral Mavua Mudima, deputy prime minister and minister of national defense, and his Angolan counterpart had chaired the closing ceremony for the three-day meeting of both countries' military experts. Correspondent Ngoma Yesse has the details:

[Begin recording] [Yesse] It was in an atmosphere of fraternity and mutual understanding that the Angolan defense minister and his Zairian counterpart signed the communique marking the end of the three-day deliberations of the military experts this morning at 0345. Also present at the signing ceremony were Angolan Deputy Defense Minister Pedro Sebastiao and his Zairian counterpart, Nyebaka Boboy, as well as Generals (Enuki) and (Ebaramoto), Zairian Armed Forces' chief of defense staff and commander general of the Civil Guard, respectively. The two highlights of the ceremony were the presentation of souvenirs with members of the Angolan delegation and the reading of the communique by Colonel (Bayi Ndua). According to the communique, the Zairian and Angolan sides decided to assign the preparations for the summit of President Mobutu and dos Santos to their respective ministries of foreign affairs. [passage omitted] Let us listen to Col. (Ndua):

[(Ndua)] First, Concerning the meeting of the two heads of state aimed at easing the tension between the two countries, the two delegations recalled the audience granted by Prime Minister Kengo wa Dondo to the Angola national defense minister in the presence of his Zairian counterpart. At the audience, it was decided to assign the preparations for the summit of the heads of state to the respective ministries of foreign affairs.

Second, concerning the Kitona incident, the Zairian side has demanded that the victims of the incident be compensated. But the Angolan side, while admitting the facts

and presenting its excuses to the Zairian Government, denied any premeditation in the affair. It, therefore, proposed the creation of an ad hoc commission. Now let us listen to the Angolan defense minister:

["Pedale"] I would like to take this opportunity to repeat what I have already stated before Zairian media that, contrary to what people were made to believe, the Kitona incident was not premeditated. In addition to the communique, I would like to stress that we will strive to better throw light on the incident. [end recording]

Communique Issued

AB2410201194 Kinshasa Voix du Zaire in French 1800 GMT 24 Oct 94

["Joint communique" issued by Zairian Prime Minister Kengo wa Dondo and Rwandan Prime Minister Faustin Twagiramungu in Kinshasa on 24 October; read by Mrs. Soki Fuani Eyenga, minister of social welfare]

[FBIS Translated Text] On the invitation of His Excellency Mr. Leone Kengo wa Dondo, prime minister of the Republic of Zaire, His Excellency Mr. Faustin Twagiramungu, prime minister of the Republic of Rwanda, paid a working visit to Zaire from 22-24 October 1994. The Rwandan delegation was led by His Excellency Mr. Faustin Twagiramungu, prime minister of the Republic of Rwanda, aided by Mr. Charles Ntakirutinka, minister of public works and energy. The Zairian delegation was led by the prime minister, aided by Gustave Mulumba Mbangula, deputy prime minister and minister of interior; Admiral Mavua Mudima, deputy prime minister and minister of national defense; Gerard Kamanda wa Kamanda, deputy prime minister and minister of institutional reforms, minister of justice and keeper of the seals; Mrs. Soki Fuani Eyenga, minister of social welfare; and Mukulumanya Wa Ngate Zenda, deputy minister of external relations.

During their discussions, the two heads of government reviewed the state of relations between Zaire and Rwanda. The question of Rwandan refugees living in Zaire received particular attention of the two delegations. On this issue, the two heads of government and the UNHCR signed a tripartite agreement on the repatriation of Rwandan refugees from Zaire.

In addition to this, the two heads of government discussed the issue of persons who allegedly committed various crimes in Rwanda and have taken refuge in Zaire. The Government of Zaire pledges to abide by the clauses of the Declaration on Territorial Asylum and reaffirms its willingness to continue to cooperate with the United Nations as part of proceedings to be instituted against persons who committed massacres and genocide in Rwanda.

On mutual security, the two heads of government pledge not to allow their respective territories to be used as a base for destabilizing each other's country. Furthermore, the two heads of government agreed to render operational, within the first two weeks of November 1994, the subcommittees set up at the end of the Goma ministerial meeting to examine by mutual consent the problems connected with: a) repatriation of Rwandan refugees; b) mutual security; and c) the returning of Rwandan property and reparation of damage suffered by Zaire.

The meeting between the two government heads enabled the Republic of Zaire to renew its appeal to the international community for assistance in keeping away from the common border all former Rwandan soldiers and personalities in Nord and Sud Kivu as they wait for an alternative host to receive them.

The two heads of government urgently appeal to the international community to help Rwanda create the conditions conducive for resettling the Rwandan refugees, notably by putting in place special centers to receive them inside Rwanda. Officials of the UNHCR and other agencies of the UN system will have free access to these centers in the performance of their duties. The two heads of government expressed the wish to see a speedy resumption of activities of the CPGN [expansion unknown].

The meeting between the two heads of government took place in an atmosphere characterized by frankness and mutual understanding.

[Signed] For the Republic of Rwanda, Prime Minister Faustin Twagiramungu. For the Republic of Zaire, Prime Minister Leone Kengo wa Dondo.

Kenya

Government Lowers Fuel Prices

EA2210190094 Nairobi Kenya Broadcasting Corporation Network in English 1600 GMT 22 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] The vice president and minister for planning and national development, Professor George Saitoti, today appealed to manufacturers, matatu [not further identified] and other public transport operators and businessmen, to reduce commodities and commuter prices, now that the government has lowered the prices of petroleum products and petrol.

Prof. Saitoti lauded the government action of reducing the prices as of last night, following the Kenya shilling's gain on foreign hard currencies in recent times.

The vice president made the appeal at a harambee [community gathering] in aid of Kerarapon Kibiko water project in Ngong Division of Kajiado District, held at Kibiko primary school. [passage omitted]

Somalia

Ali Mahdi Warns of Violence if Rivals Form Government

AB2210194894 Paris AFP in English 1705 GMT 22 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Mogadishu, Oct 22 (AFP)—Self-styled Somali president Ali Mahdi Mohamed warned Saturday [22 October] of a likely escalation in factional fighting if participants in a reconciliation conference decide to form a government.

Leaders of 12 Somali factions, including the Somalia National Alliance of Ali Mahdi's arch rival Mohamed Farah Aidid, have agreed to hold a reconciliation meeting here Thursday to discuss forming a government of national unity. Ali Mahdi told a news conference here he would not take part in the conference, saying any reconciliation initiative should come from the United Nations.

The special representative of the UN Secretary General in Somalia, Victor Gbeho, has welcomed the decision by Somali leaders to hold the meeting.

Ali Mahdi said he had appointed a committee chaired by his ally Mohamed Abshir Musa of the Somalia Salvation Democratic Front to try to persuade other faction leaders to postpone the meeting.

The mandate of the UN Operation in Somalia (UNOSOM) expires on 31 October, and a UN fact-finding

mission is to arrive here next week to assess the situation in this strife-torn east African country.

The UN mission has failed so far in its attempts to bring peace to Somalia, where the world body intervened almost two years ago in a bid to avert mass starvation engendered by bloody tribal warfare.

The main body of UN troops withdrew earlier this year after anarchic clan fighting and the deaths of more than 70 UN troops, including 36 from the United States.

Fighting Reported in Mogadishu

AB2510112094 Paris AFP in English 1025 GMT 25 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Mogadishu, Oct 25 (AFP)—Four people have been killed and 17 others wounded in fierce factional fighting in the Somali capital during the past two days, UN and hospital sources said Tuesday [25 October]. The fighting, pitting members of the Abgal sub-clan against the Murursade, erupted on Monday in the Bermuda village of southern Mogadishu, but it was not immediately clear what triggered the violence.

A UN fact-finding mission is expected here on Wednesday to assess the situation, before the Security Council votes to determine whether the UN should renew its peacekeeping mandate in the strife-torn country. The current mandate is scheduled to expire on 31 October.

An AFP reporter on Tuesday saw hundreds of civilians evacuating the battle zone, amid heavy exchanges of mortar and machine gun fire. A reconciliation conference to be attended by about 12 factions is scheduled to open here on Thursday.

Aidid Calls For Consultations Among Organizations

FA2410221094 (Clandestine) Radio Mogadishu Voice of the Great Somali People in Somali 1700 GMT 24 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Mr. Mohamed Farah Aidid, chairman of the Somali National Alliance and of the United Somali Congress today called on the Somali organizations in their capacity as leaders of the Somali people and enjoying their support to intensify the mutual consultations to pave the way for a great national conference planned to be opened in Mogadishu on 27 October. In a statement issued today, Chairman Aidid said that the consultations among the Somali organizations would serve to promote the great conference and should therefore be intensified. He hoped the great conference would be a success.

Cape Town Municipal Workers Riot, 10 People Injured*MB2410121994 Johannesburg Radio South Africa
Network in English 1100 GMT 24 Oct 94*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Ten people were injured this morning when a crowd of municipal workers threw beer bottles and stones at the police at the Cape Town Civil Center. The police fired rubber bullets at the crowd. The workers are demanding an immediate moratorium on the evaluation of posts and the resignation of the chairman of the city's management committee, Mr. Arthur Weinberg.

Damaged estimated at about 20,000 rands was caused when 15 large windows at the civic center were broken. NP [National Party] MP Mr. (Solly Manie) and the mayor of Cape Town, Mrs. (Patricia Creiner) are trying to resolve the crisis while a delegation from the municipal trade union is holding talks with Mr. Weinberg.

Police Said Unable To Control Increase in Crime*MB2410122094 Johannesburg WEEKEND STAR in
English 22-23 Oct 94 p 1-2*

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Safety and Security Deputy Minister Joe Matthews has admitted that police are unable to control the spiral of crime and violence in South Africa.

During a security industry forum at the South African Police service college in Pretoria West yesterday, he said this was increasing the burden on South Africa's private security industry.

The private security sector had a key role to play in curbing crime in the formal sector as long as it took steps to root out fly-by-night companies, which were often cover-up operations for crime syndicates. Matthews also urged private security companies to attend to labour concerns, as this was a problem area.

"The consequences of security employee strikes are just too ghastly to contemplate," he said.

Steps had to be taken to include all sectors in the industry so that national consensus could be achieved on vital issues.

Matthews allayed fears within the industry about over-regulation by the Government, which was in favour of deregulation and supporting private initiative, he said.

Meanwhile, ANC and Inkatha Freedom Party-aligned self-defence units in East Rand townships refused to hand all their AK-47's over to police.

Following a call by the ANC and Government to hand over the weapons by midnight last night [21 October] in terms of an amnesty on illegal weapons, the two groups failed to take full advantage of the moratorium on prosecution for possession of unlicensed firearms.

Instead they handed over a handful of toy pistols, shotguns, homemade firearms and rusted, dysfunctional AK-47's.

The exercise was clearly a big disappointment to the ANC, the community and police in the Katorus area. [passage omitted]

ANC regional deputy secretary-general Obed Bapela said he was disheartened by the lack of response to the amnesty.

"We are obviously very disappointed with this lack of response. People must know that if they are found with unlicensed weapons, the courts will deal with them severely. There will be no mercy for such people."

Bapela said the ANC was not only disappointed with the self-defence units but also with "ordinary members of the community" who were armed.

"We know that there are criminals armed and this could have also influenced this reaction."

Bapela said the ANC felt that the moratorium period was too short. It would ask the Government to extend the deadline for the surrender of weapons.

"We are also going to ask the Government to consider legalising small weapons like pistols. Whites in this country have enjoyed advantages in applications for firearm licences and as a result they enjoy safety and security."

One local ANC leader, who declined to be named, said all the self-defence unit members who had AK-47's had disappeared from the township.

Bapela said the police presence in the area had not improved matters. People did not feel safe enough to give up their weapons. [passage omitted]

One self-defence unit commander said that if the Government had offered R2,000 [rands] for each AK-47, thousands would have been surrendered.

"A lot of non-self-defence unit members are interested in money," he said.

IFP Members Reportedly Plotting To Topple Zwelithini*MB2210171694 Johannesburg NEW NATION in
English 21 Oct 94 p 2*

[Report by Paddy Harper]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Senior members of the Inkatha Freedom Party (IFP) have hatched a plot to topple Zulu monarch King Goodwill Zwelithini because of his attempts to depoliticise the royal house.

The plot allegedly involves senior members of the party in both the KwaZulu/Natal legislature and national parliament, who have called on Amakhosi [chiefs] to actively participate in the campaign against the monarch.

Prince Sifiso Zulu, spokesperson for the monarch, said this week that King Zwelithini was "fully aware" of the campaign as he had been briefed about it by Amakhosi, who had been approached by Inkatha leaders.

Zulu said that Amakhosi, who had attended the Shaka Day celebrations at Emseleni near Empangeni on 1 October, were asked to attend a secret meeting earlier in the day at which they were told they should assist in toppling the monarch.

The Amakhosi were told the Shell House shooting had been "caused by the king" as he had ordered the march to take place in support of his demands, but was now reneging on this position and favouring the African National Congress (ANC).

Smear pamphlets have been issued at Ulundi and Nongoma propagating this story, while rumours have also been circulated of a love affair between the king and the daughter of the late Chris Hani.

Zulu said the same individuals were behind an attempt to cause conflict between the king and Lethukuthula Zulu, his eldest son by his first wife, Queen Sibongile.

They concocted a story that the King had signed an agreement in the presence of former Bantu Affairs commissioner MC Botha, that Lethukuthula was to be his heir and a regent would be installed. Further, attempts were being made to secure the assistance of Queen Sibongile in this plot.

Zulu said what was particularly worrying about this attempt was that in terms of Zulu tradition, the heir to the throne could not be installed while the king was still alive. This credited serious fears for the safety of the King.

However, "adequate measures" had been taken to ensure the safety of the monarch and members of the royal family. The plot, he added, was clearly an attempt by the IFP to "cause the king to fall into disfavour with his subjects and to topple him."

"It is very disturbing to us that the IFP continues to attempt to use the chiefs for its party political agenda. If its leaders were to observe and promote the spirit of the Constitution by literally freeing the chiefs from party political patronage, there would definitely be light visible at the end of the tunnel and we would be on the verge of achieving political tolerance in the province," he said.

"The IFP is not doing anything at all to help achieve the aim of depoliticising traditional leadership," he concluded.

An IFP spokesperson said he was "totally unaware" of the allegations or of the secret meeting at Emseleni.

Possible Collapse of Local Governments To Delay Election

MB2410161194 Johannesburg BUSINESS DAY in English 24 Oct 94 pp 1, 2

[Report by David Greybe]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Cape Town—Government has conceded that plans to hold local government elections in October next year may be doomed because of the

administrative and financial collapse of black local governments in particular. A government source said yesterday ANC and NP [National Party] ministers "in the know" had realised that unless the democratisation process within third-tier government was accelerated there would be little choice but to postpone the poll.

He said government would be in a position to decide on a definite date only in April, which he admitted was a far cry from the original intention to announce the date two months ago. "Government is still working on the assumption that the elections can be held in October, but realises it may be forced to reconsider. The country cannot afford a half-baked election." The biggest challenge was to prevent the total collapse of local government services, described by Provincial Affairs and Constitutional Development Minister Roelf Meyer as having reached boiling point.

The source confirmed that Meyer's statement that local elections would be held "at the earliest" in October signalled a shift from government's earlier position. The biggest problem was getting the process of demarcation of local boundaries and voter registration completed in time. The widespread collapse of mainly black local governments aggravated the situation. Their financial situation was at its worst yet.

A confidential government discussion document on the state of local finances, dated 16 September, warns of "a very real danger" that if the third-tier reform process is poorly managed, the instability confined to black local authorities, could spread to other areas. "A serious deterioration in basic services, in the core cities in particular, would have devastating effects on the country's economy and capacity to carry through constitutional change."

Financial issues could not be divorced from political and administrative ones, the document said. The levels of service payments to black local authorities had plummeted from 33.5 percent to 19.7 percent between November last year and May 1994. It conceded that services "are generally poor and sometimes non-existent." The document said black arrears to local authorities and Eskom [Electricity Supply Commission] stood at more than R1.1bn. The Eskom arrears of R874 million were increasing by R45 million a month. The arrears of coloureds and Indians were "in the region of R500 million."

The figures did not include R5.5bn owed by black local authorities to the National Housing Fund. It said the Housing Department had recently accepted that the arrears would have to be written off as "politically not recoverable" because of the collapse of black authorities. The culture of non-payment in black areas was blamed mainly on two factors, the NP government's "poorly conceived" black local authorities strategy and organised service charge boycotts.

The document, drawn up by a technical team which included representatives from the Constitutional Development, Finance and State Expenditure Departments, as

well as the Office of the Reconstruction and Development Programme, proposed a four-part strategy to restore payment:

- Services had to be restored where they had collapsed, and extended to new areas. "While it is not necessary to complete this task before payment can begin, it is necessary that residents perceive that marked improvements have begun; [no closing quotation marks as published]"
- Affordable tariffs had to be set. This involved structuring tariffs progressively, or at least proportionally, in relation to income, or finding other means to subsidise the poor, such as through welfare payments. But the issue needed to be addressed within the context of an overall approach to "fiscal decentralisation";
- The administration of service payments had to be sound, which involved "attending to the promulgation of tariffs, metering, billing, collecting and implementing appropriate sanctions in cases of non-payment," and;
- The political legitimacy of amalgamated authorities had to be established. This included the introduction of transitional councils, holding elections, and campaigns directed at the issue of non-payments.

Wilson Zwane reports that regulations to govern local government elections were expected to be gazetted before the end of the month, Meyer said. The regulations had been drafted by a local government elections task team co-chaired by Van Zyl Slabbert and Khehla Shubane, Meyer said in an interview. They would be discussed at a meeting between him and the nine provincial local government ministers on Friday.

He said while government would like the regulations accepted as uniformly as possible in all provinces, the provinces would be given some leeway to add to them to meet their specific requirements.

ANC Denies Tampering With Election Results

MB2410195094 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1754 GMT 24 Oct 94

[Statement issued by the ANC on 24 October on the SAPA PR Wire Service]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The ANC rejects with contempt the claims made by Mr. Mzimela that it tried to fiddle with election results in Natal. The claims are unsubstantiated and completely untrue. This is once again an attempt by Inkatha Freedom Party [IFP] to undermine peace and stability in Natal.

Our officials who were present at the said counting station never put any pressure or undue influence on the IEC [Independent Electoral Commission] to fiddle with election results.

Despite the rife irregularities which the ANC publicly challenged in Natal we resolved to a political approach that would give peace in Natal a chance and accepted the results.

These defamatory claims are damaging to the ANC and we view them seriously. The ANC would not stoop so low as to try and manipulate results in its favour as was done by the NP [National Party] and DP [Democratic Party].

We challenge Mr. Mzimela to provide the concrete evidence to support his claims and we demand the IEC to clarify the matter. Should Mr. Mzimela fail to provide the necessary information the ANC will have no choice but to take up the matter in court.

De Klerk Says Allegation of Impropriety Is 'Vicious Story'

MB2510062094 Johannesburg SAPA in English 2131 GMT 25 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Cape Town Oct 24 SAPA—Deputy President F. W. de Klerk on Monday [24 October] night found himself at the centre of a new Reconstruction and Development Programme [RDP] storm.

Just two days after criticising President Nelson Mandela's alleged political misuse of the RDP, Mr. De Klerk hit out at a newspaper report which alleged he had raised funds for a non-governmental organisation during a visit to Germany in July. THE STAR reported that Mr. De Klerk had raised money for the Rural Foundation, which the newspaper alleged was part of the previous government's security management system.

Mr. De Klerk dismissed the report as "a vicious story". "The Rural Foundation was busy with reconstruction and development while the ANC was still planting bombs in supermarkets."

He suggested that the report was another attempt to misuse the RDP for party political gains. "I totally reject any effort to derogate from the efforts of voluntary organisations working for a better life for all our people."

On Saturday, Mr. De Klerk attacked President Mandela for his apparent suggestion that Indians and coloureds who had not voted for the African National Congress in the recent elections had harmed their chances of receiving equal RDP treatment to ANC supporters.

AFDB Lending Expected To Total \$300 Million per Year

MB2510063194 Johannesburg SAPA in English 2153 GMT 24 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Johannesburg Oct 24 SAPA—The African Development Bank [AFDB] said at the weekend it expected its lending to South Africa [SA] to equal that to Morocco, Nigeria, Tunisia and Egypt, each of whom borrow approximately 300-million U.S. dollars a year.

Once South Africa's AFDB membership goes ahead, the bank would fund a wide range of projects including both

social and new commercial projects. AFDB Vice President Adewale Sangowawa, said in Johannesburg he believed small and medium-sized businesses would be an important target for AFDB funds because they were particularly suited to creating employment and providing more equitable income distribution. Infrastructure and services would also be target areas for AFDB funds, because of SA's comparative advantage in these industries in southern Africa.

Sangowawa would lead a high-level AFDB delegation to South Africa in mid-November for a two-day private sector conference to be held in conjunction with SAFTO [South African Foreign Trade Organization] and co-chaired by the department of finance where the AFDB, its procedures, practices and opportunities, would be under the spotlight.

AFDB President Babacar N'diaye is expected to visit South Africa with a delegation to negotiate terms with government for South Africa's membership. With SA membership of the AFDB approved in principle, the bank is increasing its presence here, beginning with Sangowawa's participation at the RDP donor conference in Cape Town later this week, where he will focus on South Africa's role in southern Africa and the economic integration of the region.

Assembly To Request More Time To Finalize Constitution

MB2510060694 Johannesburg SABC TV 1 Network in Afrikaans 1800 GMT 24 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] The leadership of the Constitutional Assembly, the body which is to write South Africa's final constitution, is to request the cabinet to open next year's parliamentary session month earlier to allow it more time to complete its task. The constitution must be finalized by 9 May 1996, and the Constitutional Assembly will have to follow a busy program to be able to meet the deadline.

The National Party earlier today requested the cabinet to allow another year for the writing of the constitution. The Inkatha Freedom Party also said it was worried that 18 months was not enough time to finalize the constitution. Constitutional Assembly Chairman Cyril Ramaphosa said a full session of the assembly will have to decide on the extension of time.

South African Press Review for 25 Oct

MB2510105194

[Editorial Report]

SOWETAN

DP Should Change Image—Although Tony Leon, the new head of the Democratic Party, DP, is "not everyone's favourite politician," he has "the type of aggression

that might pull the DP out of years of dullness and an uncertain, rudderless leadership," declares a page 12 editorial in Johannesburg SOWETAN in English on 25 October. The DP also needs to change its image which is "regarded as representing the mink and manure class of liberal do-gooders." The party is also "too white and there is a need for aggressive attempts for it to get a more representative membership. The NP [National Party] is trying almost desperately—sometimes making huge blunders—to 'blacken' its image." But the DP "has a much better chance" of getting black members to join its ranks since its policy is "democratic and decent."

Criticism of Police Raid on Newspaper Office—A second editorial on the same page refers to the police raid on the Lenasia offices of the INDICATOR newspaper due to police reportedly being tipped off that the newspaper was selling stolen goods, including AK-47's and stolen cars, saying the "manner" in which the raids were conducted "gives one a chilling sense of déjà vu. In the bad old days newspaper offices were raided routinely by the police, whose chief mission was to intimidate or silence the bearers of bad news." SOWETAN finds it "strange" that a government "that is about to subsidise the setting up of community newspapers—a tricky enterprise in our opinion—should continue to use jackboot methods reminiscent of fascist apartheid days."

BUSINESS DAY

Leadership Must Lend Expertise in Municipal Elections—The credibility of the outcome of the municipal election is "essential," notes a page 20 editorial in Johannesburg BUSINESS DAY in English on 25 October. Now the "complicated procedure" of setting up interim authorities in cities and towns, in order to facilitate the municipal election, "is taking too long and might necessitate postponement." BUSINESS DAY points out that the "cream of our leadership, cannot simply leave the people to sort themselves out while basking in the rarified air of parliamentary affairs." The "experience and expertise" of the multiparty talks should be brought to bear in establishing transitional local councils, and the wherewithal to register voters quickly and accurately has to be supplied to fledgling councils.

DP Needs New Profile—A second editorial on the same page says the DP has to "find a role for itself" in South Africa's restructured politics. BUSINESS DAY believes the DP's future lies in recruiting new members "to the cause of individual rights and freedoms, and to express this in vigorous, principled opposition which offers neither power nor patronage. Most of those potential voters are in the black community. A new profile and revamped policies will not work if the DP is seen as the retirement home of a declining number of white liberals."

Angola**Defense Minister: Bomb Not Dropped on Zaire 'on Purpose'***MB2510064594 Luanda Radio Nacional Network in Portuguese 0600 GMT 25 Oct 94*

[FBIS Translated Text] Speaking to the Angolan media in Luanda yesterday, Angolan Defense Minister Pedro Maria Tonha Pedale denied reports that the Angolan Armed Forces [FAA] had bombed (Kitoma) military air base in the Republic of Zaire on purpose. Defense Minister Pedale was commenting on his recent visit to the Zairian capital, where he attended a meeting from 20 to 23 October in preparation for the upcoming Angolan-Zairian summit meeting.

The Angolan defense minister said that the FAA forces could not have carried out the aforesaid attack on purpose, because an Angolan Government team was about to visit the Republic of Zaire at the time and it would not have made any sense for Angola to have embarked on an operation of that nature.

Defense Minister Pedale explained that an Angolan Air Force aircraft accidentally dropped a bomb over the Angolan-Zairian border on 18 October. The incident occurred while the FAA forces were involved in an operation to retaliate against the rebel troops of the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola in the vicinity of Cabinda.

Denies Attack on Zairian Base*MB2410202194 Luanda Radio Nacional Network in Portuguese 1900 GMT 24 Oct 94*

[FBIS Translated Text] The Angolan Air Force has no intention of bombing the Republic of Zaire. Defense Minister Pedro Maria Tonha Pedale today denied reports by the foreign press that Angolan aircraft bombed the Kitona base in the lower Zaire on 18 October. The minister said that, due to bad weather, one of the aircraft lost its route and dropped a bomb on the opposite bank of Zaire River.

[Begin Pedale recording] There was no intention of the Angolan Armed Forces to bomb the Kitona base as they reported. [end recording]

To verify the facts, the Angolan Government proposed to the Zairian Government the creation of military commission to go to the location.

[Begin Pedale recording] Today, we held a meeting of the National Defense Council presided by his excellency the president of the Republic in his capacity as commander in chief. According to the constitution of the council, I had the opportunity to inform the council on the issue, and I personally informed his excellency the president of the Republic that our Armed Forces would create this commission. I will inform our Zairian counterparts when the commission is ready to leave for Zaire to investigate the issue with the Zairian counterparts. [end recording]

The defense minister returned from Zaire yesterday, where he led an interministerial commission for talks with their Zairian counterparts on issues relating to security along the Zaire-Angola border. The talks were held between 21 and 23 October. The commission was in Zaire also to prepare a working agenda at the level of prime ministers of both countries and a summit between Angolan President Jose Eduardo dos Santos and his counterpart, Mobutu Sese Seko.

UNITA Radio Reports Military Successes in Huila Province*MB2510074294 Jamba Voz da Resistencia do Galo Negro in Portuguese 0600 GMT 25 Oct 94*

[FBIS Translated Text] The patriotic and revolutionary Armed Forces for the Liberation of Angola [FALA] troops continue to defend southern Huila Province's Caconda District. (Silva Nihia), the Voice of Resistance of the Black Cockerel correspondent in that area, reports that fierce clashes have taken place along the road between Caluquembe and Caconda, adding that the People's Armed Forces for the Liberation of Angola [FAPLA] troops have suffered defeat after defeat. At least 60 FAPLA soldiers were killed and three BMP-1 armored cars were completely burned in clashes on 23 October.

In retaliation, the men of Jose Eduardo dos Santos indiscriminately bombed civilian targets in just about every part of Huila Province on 24 October. The FALA Operational Command for Huila Province has called on people to remain calm. It has also promised that the military situation in the area will change within the next few days.

UNITA Radio Decries Namibian Collaboration Along Border*MB2410090194 Jamba Voz da Resistencia do Galo Negro in Portuguese 0600 GMT 24 Oct 94*

[FBIS Translated Text] [words indistinct] the Angolan-Namibian border. Military sources told the Voice of Resistance of the Black Cockerel [Vorgan] that communist Luanda regime leader Jose Eduardo dos Santos has entrusted Miguel N'Zau Puna with the mission of relaying an order to Namibian President Sam Nujoma to place armed Namibian soldiers on the border of the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola [UNITA]-controlled territory in Cuando Cubango Province, thereby preventing the free movement of people and goods. As though it were not enough to place those restrictions on the people of the Mucusso tribe—who live on both sides of the border—snipers serving in both the People's Armed Forces for the Liberation of Angola [FAPLA] and the South-West African People's Organization [SWAPO] army are brutally killing people trying to move about, even if they do not cross the border.

Those sources once again warned the Namibian Government led by President Sam Nujoma to stop playing around with people, adding that what the Popular Movement for

the Liberation of Angola-Labor Party [MPLA-PT] government really wants is to see war extended to neighboring countries but, in that particular context, UNITA remains firm about continuing to pursue a policy of good neighborliness, though it does not exclude the possibility that it will react vigorously to any type of provocation.

It is also worth noting that the SWAPO armed forces recently detained a unit of FAPLA special forces trying to launch attacks against the UNITA forces in the Jamba area, the bastion of Angolan resistance. A military source told Vorgan that those Luanda regime soldiers were carrying high-explosive hand grenades and large quantities of TNT.

Meanwhile, to stay in the good books of the clique in Luanda's Futungo de Belas Palace, that news report was kept under wraps and the detained MPLA-PT soldiers were promptly released. This is even more obvious evidence that the Sam Nujoma regime has been involved in moves that have helped worsen the military situation in this region.

Botswana

President Names New Cabinet

MB2410193494 Gaborone Radio Botswana Network in English 1610 GMT 24 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The president, Sir Ketumile Masire, announced a new cabinet this afternoon, which has only three people remaining in their ministries. They are the vice president and minister of finance and development planning, Mr. Festus Mogae; the former assistant minister of agriculture, Mr. Roy Blackbeard, who is now a full minister, and Mr. Booemetswe Mogotso, a former assistant minister of local government, lands, and housing. The cabinet also includes two new faces and three returnees to cabinet posts.

The new faces are Mr. George Kgoroba, who has been appointed minister of commerce and industry, and Mrs. Margaret Nasha, who has been appointed assistant minister of local government, lands, and housing. They were both specially elected to parliament today.

The returnees to cabinet positions are Mr. Daniel Kwelagobe who is now minister of works, transport, and communications; Mr. Lesedi Mothibamele, who is the assistant minister of finance and development planning, and Mr. Ronald Sebege, now assistant minister of agriculture.

Mr. Kwelagobe is a former minister of agriculture. He resigned to that post in 1992 after the (Kgabo land) report, which implicated him in improper land acquisition. That report has since been nullified by the high court.

Mr. Mothibamele is a former minister of health who was dropped from that post over the 1989 general elections.

Mr. Sebege is a former assistant minister of finance and development planning. He resigned from that post over the quest report on the Botswana Housing Corporation, which

accused him of political irresponsibility while he was assistant minister of local government, lands, and housing.

Two ministers have been called back at their former portfolios. They are Mr. Ponatshego Kedikilwe, who leaves the Ministry of Commerce and Industry and goes back to that of presidential affairs and public administration. He was moved from that ministry after the 1989 general elections.

Also back to his former post is Mr. Patrick Balopi, who moves from labor and home affairs back to local government, lands and housing. He was also moved to labor and home affairs after the 1989 general elections.

Dr. Gaositwe Chiepe, who has been minister for foreign affairs after the 1984 general elections, has now moved to the Education Ministry vacated by Raymond Molomo, who lost the race for Kgatleng's constituency in the recent general elections.

The foreign affairs portfolio now goes to Lieutenant General Mompoti Merafhe, who has been minister for presidential affairs and public administration since 1989.

Mr. David Marang takes over the Ministry of Mineral Resources and Water Affairs, which has been under Mr. Archibald Mogwe, who lost the race for the Kanye constituency in the recent elections.

The Ministry of Health has been taken over by Mr. Chapson Butale, who moves from local government, lands, and housing. The ministry was under Mr. Bahitik Temane.

Mr. Temane takes over the Ministry of Labor and Home Affairs vacated by Mr. Balopi.

The former minister of agriculture, Mr. Kebatlamang Morake, lost the race for Selebi-Phikwe constituency in the recent election.

President Notes 'Protest Vote' in Election Results

MB2510082194 Gaborone Radio Botswana Network in English 1610 GMT 24 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The president, Sir Ketumile Masire, says the recent election results have shown a protest vote emanating from people considering government not to have responded to their demands in time. Sir Ketumile was speaking at a Botswana Democratic Party [DP] fund raising dinner at Orapa's recreation hall on Saturday [22 October].

He said this is shown by the BDP's loss of some parliamentary seats and control of some local authorities in areas of commercial and industrial concentration where most of the labor force is concentrated. However, Sir Ketumile said the returning of BDP into power proved it is effective and that it is a force to reckon with. He said the party needs to sit down and analyze factors which influenced election results. He said the BDP needs to identify these factors, determine its strategy in dealing

with them, and ensure that its conduct, behavior, utterances and interactions are demonstrative of its commitment to govern and retain the party Botswana will always turn to for guidance for many more years.

President Masire said the loyalty shown to the party has given him confidence as its leader, and that recent election results will inspire him and party followers to work harder to reclaim their position in the governance of the country. He encouraged party followers to continue preparing for the 1999 elections.

Madagascar

Prime Minister To Seek Only IMF, World Bank Funds

EA2210145594 Antananarivo Television Nationale
Malagasy Network in Malagasy 1630 GMT 21 Oct 94

[Statement by Malagasy Prime Minister Francisque Ravony in Antananarivo on 21 October—live or recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpts] Dear compatriots: The issue of our relations with financial donors and lenders was widely commented on and debated recently. I think that the time has now come for me to explain to you our present financial state. It is very important for our economy and the future of our nation that a clear choice be made on the right path which we should follow.

For many months now state officials have explored ways and means of getting money through what is called parallel financing, from sources other than Bretton Woods institutions. They have the right to do so because one cannot stay idle in the face of the difficulties and poverty weighing heavily on the country. We in the government did not prevent them from seeking this sort of money because we all have responsibilities in the country, and also because, for their part, traditional financial donors and lenders did not make clear from the outset that they were opposed to parallel financing.

But today we are faced with two important issues. The first issue concerns the fact that the traditional groups of financial donors and lenders have now become reluctant to help Madagascar. The second fact is that no tangible results have so far been achieved in the search for money through parallel financing. Although many statements were made here and there, no money was obtained by the country through this sector.

As a result, the government has decided that agreements with traditional financial donors and lenders, led by the IMF and World Bank, will be sought more quickly and that all efforts to find parallel financing will cease.

Parallel financing refers to loans in which state officials are involved without prior authorization from the Council of Government or the approval of the National Assembly.

Here are the major reasons why we should work with the IMF and World Bank. First, they are key to receiving

financial assistance from countries and organizations. This is true even for project funding. Second, the burden of our debt is such that we cannot repay it at once. We cannot therefore succeed in negotiating a partial write-off or rescheduling of debts unless we have reached agreement with the IMF and World Bank. We cannot even hold meetings with the groups of financial donors and lenders—Paris and London Clubs—without the consent of the IMF. Third, our balance of payments shows that we still have to rely on financial relations with these financial donors and lenders. Our export revenues cannot cope with our imports in goods, food, and equipment which our country needs on a daily basis. The IMF and World Bank have made it clear that they will no longer work with Madagascar should we continue to look for parallel financing.

This decision by these two institutions can be explained in the following manner. First, they said that parallel financing was disrupting the international financial system. Second, a side effect of parallel financing is a lack of transparency from their point of view. Third, they also said that parallel financing resulted in higher interest rates than those they were trying to give us, that is to say 1-2 percent.

Now that all countries open themselves to the international economy, I personally think that it is right for our country, like 160 other countries, to accept the financial system implemented by the IMF all over the world.

I know very well how important national sovereignty is, however, that would be like a fight between an egg and a rock. It is true that there may be injustices perpetrated by these wealthy nations either with regard to the prices for our products or in the distribution of world wealth, however, our country is not yet self-sufficient and consequently is not in a position to close its doors and cease relations with these nations.

I would also like to point out that a few foreign enterprises cannot help us to get out of poverty. There are nations who resorted to parallel financing in the past but were forced to return to the IMF in the end. Because the task of developing a nation is a long and exacting job, quick financial deals here and there are not enough to achieve that. The task of development also implies entanglements in various fields, so we would be wrong if we relied solely on financial matters. In our era, the real objective is to have Madagascar playing a role in the world economy. This is the real basis for this government's decision.

The government conducted a thorough study of the issue before making this decision. I have also consulted the political committee. I insist on repeating that the political committee is a body whose role is to advise the head of government and that it reflects the parliamentary regime in force in our country.

Compatriots, I am aware that our current efforts are difficult and bitter for all of us. However, we support path to recovery which many countries are following. I praise the will and readiness of the Malagasy people. All

the faults and poverty accumulated so far cannot be repaired in a few months and not by the government alone. Our recovery plan is not, of course, a perfect one: some of its measures bring immediate positive results while some of them request patience and long-term efforts. [passage omitted]

We are no longer living under dictatorship, which does not mean that we do not live in a state of law. So when the executive power makes a decision like the present one, it means that it is ready to implement the measures making the decision effective. [passage omitted]. I call on the Malagasy people to work together so that our country is not left behind various nations having the same status as our dear country. Long live the Third Republic, long live our dear Madagascar.

Mozambique

Renamo Demands Irregularities Be Solved Before Polling Day

LD2410230494 Lisbon RTP Internacional Television in Portuguese 1900 GMT 24 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Our correspondent Rosario Salgueiro is live with us now from Maputo. An important meeting between the Election Technical Commission [title as heard] and UN representatives began three hours ago, what has been the outcome?

[Salgueiro] We do not know yet. We were waiting for the chairman of the National Election Commission [CNE] but he has not arrived. He met Aldo Ajello to discuss the STAI [expansion unknown] document, which provides for the acceptance of voters' cards without a number, and other matters [sentence as heard].

Renamo [Mozambique National Resistance] is the party that has complained the most about alleged irregularities. Tonight it will issue a communique making a number of demands. I have with me Mr. John Siphole. What does Renamo demand from the National Election Commission and all the observers?

[Siphole, director of Renamo's election office, identified by caption] We demand that the National Election Commission and all the observers....[pauses] We have detected a number of irregularities in the electoral process.

[Salgueiro] Will the irregularities call into question the elections on 27 and 28 October?

[Siphole] They will because they show that the CNE itself, or STAI, do not have control. [passage omitted]

[Salgueiro] Is Renamo asking for a postponement of the elections?

[Siphole] Well, it is not a question of asking for the elections to be postponed. It depends on the CNE and STAI's capacity to resolve this matter. We demand that the irregularities detected so far be resolved before the 27th and 28th.

[Salgueiro] How long does the CNE have to clarify all this?

[Siphole] That is up to their ability to resolve this, we are not setting a deadline, but we say that until the irregularities are resolved it is not possible to have free and fair elections, as we expect.

[Salgueiro] If Renamo feels that the conditions are not right to have elections on the 27th and 28th, will Renamo withdraw from the election process?

[Siphole] Well, it is not just a question of Renamo. It is a question of the process being free and fair. We are not going to the elections just as a symbolic gesture—to register that elections took place in Mozambique. It is to be translated into what we want, a democracy for Mozambique. It is not just a question of Renamo, it is a question of the elections in general.

[Salgueiro] But I repeat: Will Renamo withdraw if it feels the CNE has not overseen the process properly?

[Siphole] In principle the National Election Commission should comply with our demands because they are legitimate. That is the first thing, it should comply. Now, if it does not comply this means the National Election Commission is also shirking its own responsibilities as a body responsible for the management and supervision of the elections. [passage omitted]

Suggests Election Boycott

MB2510094194 Maputo MEDIAFAX in Portuguese 25 Oct 94 p 3

[Report by Carlos Cardoso]

[FBIS Translated Text] (Maputo) Close to the time when this edition was to be printed last night, the Mozambique National Resistance [Renamo] called a news conference in the Mozambican capital that prompted journalists reach the following conclusion: that Renamo will either not participate in the upcoming elections, or that it will participate but not accept the outcome.

Renamo Campaign chief John Sitoe said his party had discovered the existence of "irregularities" that "jeopardized the upcoming elections."

Sitoe alleged that on 14 October Jose Esteveao Muchine, Elections Administration Technical Secretariat [STAE] director, issued instructions to voting booths and Provincial Election Commissions to accept voter cards that had not been completely filled out and forged voter registration books. Sitoe complained that there are hundreds of thousands of extra ballots and that there is no control over them in the provinces. He also reiterated the accusation that Frelimo had bought voter cards in areas where Renamo enjoyed great influence.

Sitoe proceeded to add another accusation against the election organizers—that Valy, a foreigner in the STAE, had "usurped" powers that "should be in the hands of Mozambican citizens." Sitoe said that the man had

"done bad work in the Angolan elections" and should be dismissed immediately. Siteo noted that "conditions for free and fair elections are still not in place."

We asked the Renamo campaign chief if all these accusations mean that party thinks even its own cadres in the National Elections Commission, the Provincial Election Commissions, the District Election Commissions, and the STAE are incompetent.

Siteo replied: "No, each area has its own specific requirements. These cadres were not placed (in the commissions) for technical reasons."

Frelimo, Renamo Leaders Address Rallies

*MB2410173694 London BBC World Service in English
1515 GMT 24 Oct 94*

[From the "Focus on Africa" program]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The leaders of Mozambique's two main political parties have been holding their final campaign rallies today ahead of the general elections which starts on Thursday [27 October]. The leader of the former rebel movement, Renamo [Mozambique National Resistance], Afonso Dhlakama, is in his own Province of Sofala, seeking last-minute support, while President Chissano has been addressing Frelimo [Mozambique Liberation Front] supporters at the national football stadium on the outskirts of the capital, Maputo. Barnaby Philips was there and he sent us this report:

President Joaquim Chissano is on home territory, in Maputo, and a crowd of at least 50,000 people were in the national stadium today for the final rally of his campaign. One old lady told me she had been waiting in the stadium since 0700 in the morning. The weather was gorgeous, musicians entertained the crowd, and the mood was very relaxed and very confident. Everybody I spoke to was convinced that President Chissano and Frelimo would sail the victory. In a press conference earlier today, the president exuded that same confidence. He dismissed Renamo allegations that he is planning to rig the elections and accused them of being like a bad football team who always seek to blame the referee. President Chissano was ambiguous about the possibility of including Afonso Dhlakama in a postelection government. He did not rule it out, but said that he could not work with somebody bent on destroying the Frelimo Party.

Meanwhile, there have been reports of some violent incidents elsewhere in the country. The independent daily MEDIAFAX reports that in the southern town of Xai-Xai police fired in the air to disperse fighting Renamo and Frelimo supporters. The pro-government

NOTICIAS newspaper reports that in the Renamo heartland of Maringue, Renamo gangs burned down the houses of five Frelimo supporters, but violence in this campaign has only been sporadic. Now everybody hopes the voting will also go smoothly.

Chissano on CIA Interference Claims, Unomoz Performance

MB2110112494 Luanda Radio Nacional Network in Portuguese 0600 GMT 21 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] In the heat of the electoral campaign in Mozambique, allegations have surfaced that the CIA has been interfering in that country's democratization process. In a visit to the city of Xai Xai, the capital of Gaza Province, Mozambican Head of State Joaquim Chissano told VOA special correspondent Luis Costa Ribas he was not aware that the U.S. secret services are interfering in Mozambique's electoral campaign to favor the Mozambique National Resistance [Renamo].

The Mozambique Liberation Front [Frelimo] Party presidential candidate was responding to allegations published in the Mozambican press concerning such interference.

[Begin Chissano recording] I have no idea why they would have wanted to interfere harmfully in Mozambican politics. As far as I know, the CIA follows the interests of the United States. U.S. interest at this stage would be best served by stability in Mozambique and a mature and credible government, rather than any artificially created government. [end recording]

The U.S. Government in general, and the U.S. Embassy in Maputo in particular, have been accused of favoring a government of national unity for Mozambique so that Renamo will participate in government even if it loses the upcoming elections.

The U.S. Embassy in the Mozambican capital has already rejected any U.S. interference in the electoral process, whether in favor of Renamo or of any other party.

The Frelimo Party presidential candidate said, though, that it was in order to complain about a certain lack of impartiality on the part of the UN Operation in Mozambique [Unomoz], from his own and Frelimo's point of view. The Mozambican head of state told VOA that those incidents are not enough to besmirch Unomoz completely, however.

[Begin Chissano recording] Yes, if it were that bad we would have already decided to have Unomoz withdraw from this country. We have not done so yet because we believe that we can still talk with Unomoz, call its attention to certain problems, and ask it to show the necessary balanced approach so we can solve the various problems at hand. Be that as it may, it is important to keep it in mind that the Mozambican peace process is very complex. [end recording]

The Gambia

Military Junta To Stay in Power Until 1998

AB2410201494 Paris AFP in French 1913 GMT 24 Oct 94

[FBIS Translated Text] Banjul, 24 Oct (AFP)—Lieutenant Yahya Jammeh, who has been in power in The Gambia since the 22 July military coup, today announced in Banjul that the military junta will hand over power to a civilian regime in 1998.

In a public address, Lt. Jammeh, chairman of the Armed Forces Provisional Ruling Council, said: "We shall hand over power to a civilian regime in December 1998 with the organization of free presidential elections."

Lt. Jammeh and four officers bloodlessly overthrew the civilian regime of President Dawda Jawara on 22 July.

Liberia

Minister: ECOMOG Reduction Poses 'Major Security Risk'

AB2410153594 Paris AFP in English 1504 GMT 24 Oct 94

[By James Dorbor]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Monrovia, Oct 24 (AFP)—A Liberian interim government minister warned Monday [24 October] that a projected cutback of African peace-keeping troops in the country, riven by faction strife, could pose a major security risk for the whole of West Africa. Information Minister Joe Mulbah called on the international community "not to isolate Liberia," saying this would "create a grave security problem in the sub-region."

According to some reports, a reduction is envisaged of around 20 percent of the 13,500 men currently estimated to be serving in the force, first sent to Monrovia by the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) in August 1990, eight months into civil war.

Frank Akinola, spokesman for the force known as ECOMOG, last week attributed the decision to the need to get the Nigerian-led body down to a "manageable size" because of "logistics" problems, without giving exact figures.

"If Liberia is isolated, we could experience more mass killings by armed factions similar to the 1990 carnage," said the minister, nominated by the National Patriotic Front of Liberia (NPFL) to the transitional government set up in March.

Calling the scale-down "pathetic", Mulbah said the government "is negotiating at the highest level with ECOMOG contributing countries, the U.S. government and UN officials not to allow a complete withdrawal of the peacekeepers from Liberia."

A spokesman for a coalition of four factions, who are fighting NPFL forces loyal to the organisation's leader Charles Taylor in the centre of the country, told AFP the scaling down of ECOMOG troops "is a clear indication

of the international community's disgust with Liberia." "We are aware that the international community is tired with us. We do not expect ECOMOG soldiers to continue to die for us," the spokesman said.

Meanwhile, ordinary Liberians and the Monrovia press have expressed marked apprehension about the implications of the scale-down. Since the force was sent to Liberia, it has gradually become the only truly organised body in the country, ensuring security in the capital and along a thin coastal strip down to the port of Buchanan, 90 km (55 miles) to the south-east.

Nevertheless, Monrovia newspapers were Monday suggesting it is time Liberians take responsibility for ending their country's civil war, following a September power-sharing pact among the main warlords, which has been rejected in the capital as a recipe for military dictatorship.

The Monrovia Daily News commented: "No matter how much we want ECOMOG to stay, we have to face the stark reality that only Liberians can bring peace to their country."

The Inquirer added: "The responsibility to restore peace rests with Liberians themselves."

Monrovia pedlar Joseph Sackie told AFP the warring factions must be happy about the scale-down, because they will "soon enter Monrovia to kill all of us." "Our only saviour has been ECOMOG, and if they are leaving, then we are finished," he said.

The Liberian conflict broke out in December 1989 as an NPFL rebellion against the regime of slain president Samuel Doe, who was tortured to death by an NPFL splinter group nine months later in Monrovia.

In the five years of fighting, over 150,000 are reckoned to have died, while two-thirds of the country's 2.5 million people have been forced to leave their homes.

Nigerian ECOMOG Commander: Troops Reduced 20%

AB2210193094 London BBC World Service in English 1705 GMT 22 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] We reported yesterday that the ECOMOG [Economic Community of West African States Cease-Fire Monitoring Group] African peace-keeping force in Liberia decided to scale down its operations and send a substantial number of its troops home. Indeed, there were reports that around 4,000 Nigerian troops out of a force of 12,000, had begun flying out of Liberia two weeks ago. ECOMOG has been in Liberia since 1990 to try and end the civil war, disarm, and demobilize the warring factions, and be on hand for a transition to democratic elections, but the factions are still fighting furiously, especially around Charles Taylor's NPFL [National Patriotic Front of Liberia] headquarters at Gbarnga and peace seems as far away as ever. On the line to Monrovia, Mary Harper asked the Nigerian field commander of ECOMOG, General John Inienger, if he could confirm that ECOMOG was being scaled down.

[Begin recording] [Inienger] Yes, it is true that ECOMOG is scaling down or has scaled down some of its troops, but the scaling down is not anything to worry [as heard]. It just scaled down about 20 percent of our troops.

[Harper] But 20 percent is a pretty significant amount of your troops.

[Inienger] Yes, we are scaling down to enable us to compensate in the area of equipment and other requirements that would make the force operationally potent.

[Harper] So, you are saying that you are scaling down your troops to enable you to buy more sophisticated equipment. Is that what you are saying?

[Inienger] Not really to buy, to maintain. To get money to maintain the equipment that has been flawed for the past four years. The mobility of the forces is being hampered by incessant breakdown of vehicles; our communications equipment had been flawed for the past four years and broken down; and all of that. So, with that (?scaling), we can now look after this equipment and maintain them. This does not, in any way, affect our commitment, or indeed, our resolve to the entire conflict.

[Harper] But why are you choosing this moment in time to reduce your forces by a fifth? I mean the situation in Liberia is getting worse and worse it seems, rather than any better.

[Inienger] You are quite right. The understanding is that from the commendations we have received from the international community, it is often said that this is a laudable initiative by the subregion to be able to put our forces together to contain a situation of this nature within the subregion. The understanding was that this laudable effort was going to be supported by the international community. We do not see that support coming.

[Harper] Does this departure of a significant amount of ECOMOG troops signal the beginning of the end of ECOMOG in Liberia?

[Inienger] Well, that may be [words indistinct]. In the first place, I do not know what you refer to as significant departure. I tried to explain to you professionally what the scaling down is all about. You may have five soldiers fully equipped and operationally they may be more effective than having 100 soldiers.

[Harper] Is it just the Nigerian troops who are being sent home or is it across the board?

[Inienger] Like I said, the scaling down is on ECOMOG forces, but like I said, as soon as we get support, we will beef up our forces.

[Harper] Nigerian soldiers in particular, are always writing to us from Liberia saying that they never received their salaries. Now, does the departure of some of them mean that they ones that would stay behind might actually see some money for once?

[Inienger] Have you confirmed that with the authorities? Whether they have not received their salaries, that is not to my knowledge. If you get letters purported to have been written by Nigerian soldiers, one would expect ...

[Harper, interrupting] We have also received some independent reports from people travelling to Liberia that ECOMOG soldiers, particularly the Nigerians, involve themselves in rather a lot of pilfering and looting.

[Inienger] We are still saying the same thing. I repeat that an organization like yours—a reputable organization like yours—should be able, on receipt of such speculations, be able to confirm with the authorities. ECOMOG High Command has not received any letter from the BBC to confirm whether any of these reports you have received is true or not. [end recording]

Mali

Northern Attack Leaves 10 Dead, 10 Injured

AB2310170194 Paris AFP in English 1544 GMT 23 Oct 94

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Bamako, Oct 23 (AFP)—At least 10 people died and 10 were wounded when unidentified attackers raided Gao, northern Mali, overnight Sunday [23 October], reliable sources in the capital Bamako said.

The attack, in which rockets were fired, was directed at civilians settled in the town, the sources said. Several homes and a petrol station were partially destroyed.

There was no immediate confirmation or denial of the report from officials here. In the past similar attacks have been attributed to "armed bandits," a term used to describe Tuaregs opposed to a 1992 pact signed between the government and former rebels from the Unified Movements and Fronts of Azawad (MFUA).

More than 300 people have died in northern Mali since the beginning of the year in an escalation of attacks by Tuaregs or in reprisal operations by the Malian army or by the civilian settled populations.

In October alone more than 40 people were killed during these clashes including the first foreign victim of the fighting, a member of a Swiss aid organisation.

Around 25,000 people have fled to Burkina Faso since June as a result of the upsurge in violence. Around 160,000 Malians have fled to Algeria, Mauritania and Burkina Faso since the 1990 start of the rebellion, and are refusing to return.

The enforcement of the April 1992 peace pact has been held up by demands by Tuaregs to integrate 3,000 former rebels into the Malian Army whereas the authorities had agreed to accept 2,000.

The pact also calls for the dismantling of Tuareg bases in northern Mali and the setting up of an autonomous administration in the area.

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